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School News

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Covering the Monrovia Unified School District

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MUSD Launches Early College Program in Partnership



By Dr. Katherine Thorossian, Superintendent

We are delighted to announce our new partnership with Citrus College that will allow our students an early start on their college education.

Beginning in January 2017, Citrus College will provide college credit courses to the high school students enrolled in the Monrovia Unified School District through an Early College pilot program.

Early College blends high school and college in a rigorous, yet supportive program, compressing the time it takes to complete a high school diploma and the first two years of college. The Early College program offers students an exceptional advantage as they prepare for their future.

Research shows that students who enroll in college classes while in high

school increase their likelihood to earn their high school diploma, become a full-time college student, earn higher grades during their first year of college, and persist to degree completion.

By earning college credit while in high school, our students will improve their chances of being accepted to a four-year college, and prepare for and experience college rigor. Classes selected for this pilot program meet general transfer requirements to both the University of California, and the California State University systems. The classes will be offered during the regular high school day.

If you are interested in getting more information about the program, please check our website: www.monroviaschools.net.

We are excited about this excellent new opportunity and look forward to celebrating its success.

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\$10,000 - \$20,000	\$100	\$40,001 - \$50,000	\$400
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*ScholarShare has received a Silver rating from Morningstar, making it one of the best-rated plans in the nation. In an annual review (10/25/2016) of the largest 529 college savings plans (64 total), Morningstar identified 29 plans that rose above their typical peers, awarding those plans Gold, Silver, and Bronze Morningstar Analyst Ratings for 2016. These forward-looking, qualitative ratings signal Morningstar's conviction in the plans' abilities to outperform their relevant benchmark and peer groups on a risk-adjusted basis over the long term. Morningstar evaluates college savings plans based on five key pillars — Process, Performance, People, Parent, and Price. For more information about Morningstar's overview of ScholarShare, go to 529.morningstar.com. Past performance does not predict future results. Source: 529.morningstar.com



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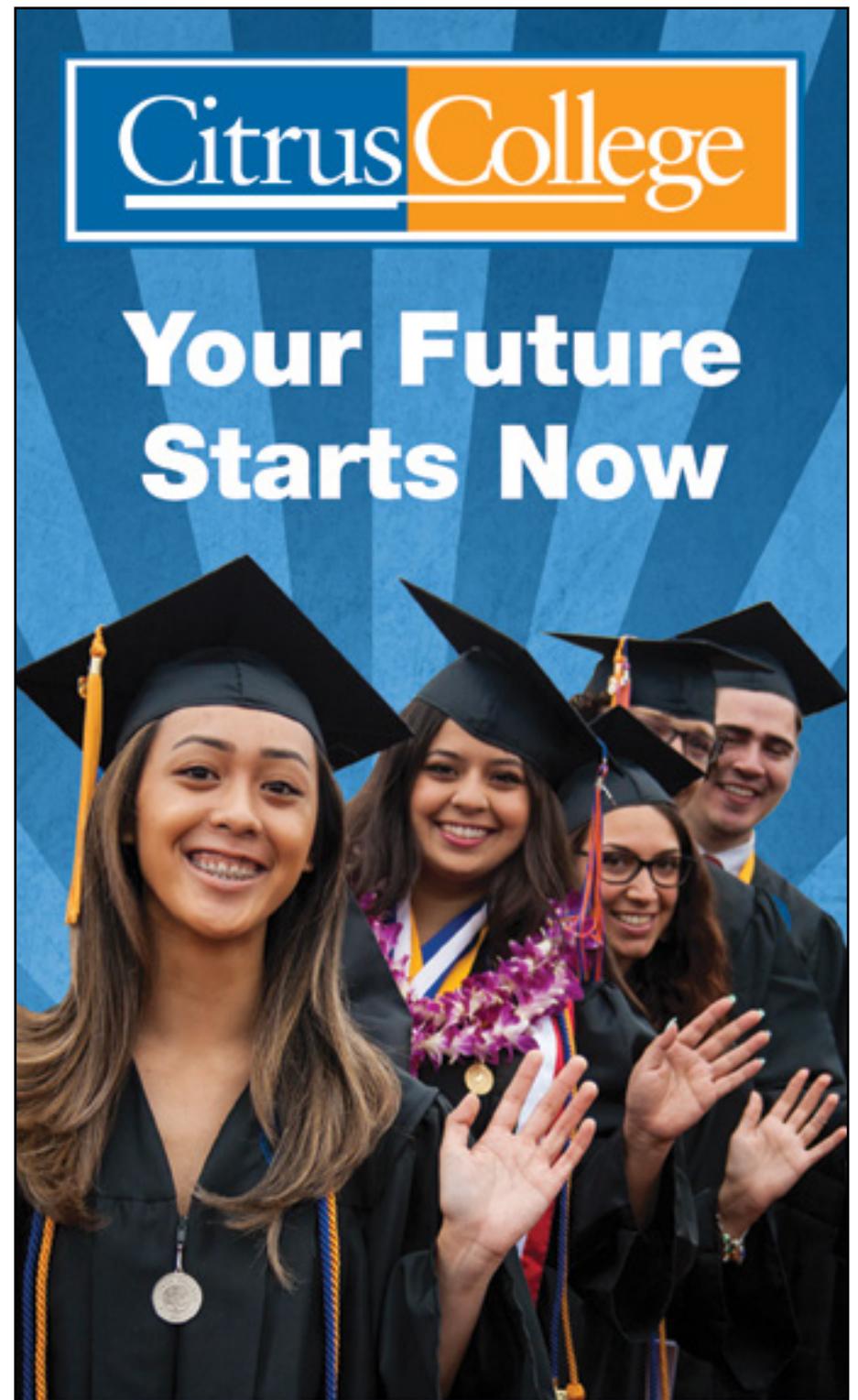
Happy New Year!

This is our third year publishing the excellence from the Monrovia Unified School District. Each new year brings hope and a fresh outlook towards accomplishing goals.

In this issue beginning on the front page you will read about the partnership between the District and Citrus College. The school articles highlight their focus on academic excellence.

As always we thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices.

Our next issue is March 8.



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Contest!!

This little girl is in a picture in this publication. When you find her, email the **page number** to:

Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com
Please put Monrovia in the subject line.

Your entry must be received by February 15, 2017. From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes and Noble.



Congratulations Oscar Menendez Winner of the December Contest!

Bradoaks *Elementary*

930 East Lemon Ave., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-2100 • <http://bradoaks.monroviashools.net>



Aimee Dyrek
Principal

A Community-Centered Approach

Bradoaks is a Gold Ribbon school whose instructional focus comprises fluency, comprehension and problem solving through critical thinking. Our students live the motto “ROARing Readers, Future Leaders.” Teachers utilize cooperative-learning strategies, data-driven intervention and direct instruction, sustained

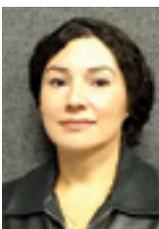
structured silent reading and Nancy Fetzer strategies. The school culture is based on the PLC model. Professional learning communities help teachers collaborate in a student-centered way to best plan whole-group, small-group and individual instruction tailored to our students’ needs. Teachers partner with parents and students to ensure that all stakeholders are striving for the same goal—student success.

Bradoaks is a PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) school. Students ROAR at Bradoaks by acting Respectfully, being On Task, having a positive Attitude, and being Responsible. Students are celebrated for their positive behavior. They enjoy being recognized at Flag Ceremonies, earning the Honor Pin, earning Bobcat Bucks, attending special events like crafts with the principal and dances, and much more.



Canyon Early Learning Center

1000 South Canyon Blvd., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-2001 • <http://celc.monroviashools.net>



Mariana Sanchez
Director

Always An Exciting Time

The Canyon Cubs spent the fall months exploring and making new discoveries. The children’s adventures began with an exploration of apples. They discussed the different parts of an apple, its color, shape, size, sound (crunchy), smell, and taste. They also created graphs and charts based on their individual

preferences, and discussed why they preferred one to the other.

The children also observed and discussed the ever-changing appearance of the apple slices that were left out to dry. They even sampled freshly made apple cider versus store bought.

Pumpkins were the next item of discovery. The children explored the different varieties of pumpkins, and discovered that not all pumpkins look alike, nor do they look like jack-o-lanterns. They separated pumpkins by size, made predictions about their weights, and discovered what happens to a pumpkin as it decays. The best part was exploring the pulp and seeds inside the pumpkin and making pumpkin pancakes.



Fall ended with the discovery of insects at our bug assembly. The children learned about the life cycle of insects and their habitats and food sources. Fall was an exciting time of exploration, discovery, and learning at CELC.

Canyon Oaks H.S./Mountain Park / Monrovia Community Adult

930 Royal Oaks Dr., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-3000 • www.MonroviaSchools.net



Flint Fertig
Principal

Career Pathways for All Students

By Calvin McKendrick, Assistant Principal

Recently, Dr. Cheri Warren, Mr. Calvin McKendrick, and the counseling staff gathered students to outline the five pathway options offered at Canyon Oaks High School. Dr. Warren gathered data from student surveys, grades, and assessments to launch a new initiative to juniors and seniors. The counseling determined student interests and goals and directed students toward optimal college and career pathways that best suited their individual needs and desires.

Students were assembled in the media center and then grouped by their respective pathway preferences. Dr. Warren explained the method behind

the madness that helped the staff to determine a good fit for each student. According to the results of the Naviance survey, each student was given a list of different possible jobs that aligned with top career pathway options. Students also received direct instruction from Dr. Warren regarding preparation through education and vocational training, including the skills, courses, and experience needed to improve marketability.

Our counseling staff has mapped out the master schedule for the spring term to allow each and every one of our Mountain Lions to take the courses required to pursue their career goals. Dr. Warren's passion to instill a plan of action for each individual student is best summarized in her invitation for students to "wake up the morning after graduation knowing which career pathway you would embark upon."

Clifton *Middle School*

226 South Ivy Ave., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-2600 • <http://clifton.monroviaschools.net>



Jennifer Jackson
Principal

Mindfulness

During the second quarter, Clifton Middle School offered a pilot Cub Academy class called Mindfulness. We hope to incorporate more opportunities in the future.

Schools are built around developing the academic potential of students and often encourage healthy living with physical education and athletic opportunities. Mindfulness offers an additional approach to help students increase their ability to focus, regulate their emotional state of mind, place emphasis on positive decisions, and generally understand people better.

The goal of the class is to provide students with the tools to respond rather than reacting in difficult situations, which helps to strengthen their minds.

This class uses sound, breathing techniques, movement, thoughts, emotions, and other techniques. The course is currently being taught by Monrovia High School teacher Mike Wagner.

Clifton has reached out to Mindful Schools for information about courses currently offered in public education and their impact on the success of students. We want to pursue any and all opportunities for students to receive academic and social/emotional support, which will allow them to be successful in life. Mindfulness may provide students with strategies to help them cope with anxiety, stress, anger, nervousness, lack of focus, and other difficulties.

In our ever-changing society, providing students with the tools to handle difficult and high-stress situations is a key component in successfully navigating their careers and preparing for opportunities after high school.

Mayflower *Elementary*

210 North Mayflower Ave., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-2200 • <http://mayflower.monroviaschools.net>



Dr. Tamar Kataroyan
Principal

Seeing Positive Growth

At Mayflower Elementary, we continue to "Celebrate 365"!

On December 16, we held our first Code to the Future Epic Build Day, where the fifth-grade student leaders led us in a fabulous presentation that showcased the innovative ways in which our students are learning every day. Our Mariner families were also able to visit the classrooms and experience the computer-embedded projects their students have completed.

With the implementation of 1:1 devices for all students, we have begun to see a rapid movement towards 21st-century learning. We are also proud of the continued growth in attendance of our Power Start and Power Finish targeted

intervention program. This program takes place in the computer lab on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursday mornings, and after school. Students can use this time to receive targeted help on homework, read a book, or access the computers for their various Common Core-aligned integrated applications.

Our set-forth goals are accomplished through the hard work and dedication of our students, a caring and diligent staff, and our extremely supportive parents. It "takes a village" to raise a child, and at Mayflower we take great pride and ownership in helping each student reach their full potential.

This month we also celebrated 50 Mariner "climber" students! These climbers demonstrated growth in academics, behavior, or attendance. Our overall goal is to inspire and motivate each of our students to strive to reach their best every day, and to make positive growth in all areas of their lives.

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Monroe *Elementary*

402 West Colorado Blvd., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-2300 • <http://monroe.monroviaschools.net>



Dr. Lily Jarvis
Principal

Lions R.O.A.R. with Pride!

After being the Principal for the Day, Iris Aldana said, "I felt happy and proud of myself. I can do anything and be successful in life."

How students perceive their abilities impacts their academic achievement. At Monroe, we are committed to creating a school that cultivates pride as Mighty Lions. We've thoughtfully created opportunities to recognize students beyond our monthly Pride Gathering. Three trimester awards ceremonies have been planned, and students will be recognized for attendance, improvement, achievement, character and leadership.

Each day, we acknowledge the small but often big things, like when a reader finishes his or her first book, when a group invites a student sitting alone to join them, or when a student resists distractions and continues working despite disruptive peers.

At Monroe, we strive to get to know each child's individuality and to formally and informally celebrate all their successes throughout the year!



Monrovia *High School*

845 West Colorado Blvd., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-2800 • <http://mhs.monroviaschools.net>



Kirk McGinnis
Principal

New College- and Career-Oriented Programs

Monrovia High School, "Home to Scholars and Champions," is welcoming in two new signature programs that will continue to prepare students for the college and career of their choice.

In partnership with Citrus College, MHS will be implementing an early-college program beginning in January 2017. The Early College Program allows MHS students to enroll in a Citrus College course that is held right on the MHS campus. The Early College classes provide credits toward MHS graduation as well as college-level credits that are then transferrable to any University of

California or California State University (UC/CSU). In addition, the classes will be offered free of charge to students! This partnership is now allowed thanks to California State Assembly Bill 288 authored by Assembly Member Chris Holden to help support rigorous and accessible learning opportunities for students to realize success after high school.

MHS is also partnering with the National Academy Foundation to provide career technical education (CTE) courses that prepare students for lucrative and rewarding careers. Beginning in the 2017-18 school year, the Information Technology Academy will allow students to take a series of high school courses like Digital Video Production, Computer Programming and Graphic Design that will prepare their job-ready skills to be competitive in the technology field. As a part of the IT Academy, students will also be provided work-based learning opportunities that help support career exploration, awareness and preparation. Perhaps the next Bill Gates or Elon Musk will be a Monrovia High graduate!

Should you be interested in either of these programs or the other award-winning programs that make MHS a Gold Ribbon School, please call the school to arrange a tour.

Wild Rose *Elementary*

232 Jasmine Ave., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-2500 • <http://wildrose.monroviaschools.net>



Dr. Leslie Rapkine-Miller
Principal

Bringing Family and Friends Together

November marked our month to celebrate and give thanks. At the beginning of November, Wild Rose staff and students participated in a very special Veterans Day Assembly. Fifth-grade students shared thank-you essays dedicated to our men and women who serve in our armed forces. Wild Rose parents who are veterans as well as those currently serving accompanied their children as they joined Dr. Miller at the podium to be recognized. All students joined in the singing of the National Anthem, led by Mrs. Velez. The program culminated with a surprise guest parent, Captain Parry, and in collaboration with the local army division, students had an opportunity to explore a military Humvee.

In the middle of November, all students participated in the annual PTA Jog-A-Thon. Many students wanted to break their records from the previous school

year and run additional laps, helping to raise money for field trips and school assemblies. Parents and the school community came out to cheer on students. Altogether, over \$2,000 was raised. Those students who assisted in raising the money for the school will enjoy a special VIP dance event hosted by DJ Dr. Miller, who will spin the latest hits among our elementary students. Dance contests and prizes will be part of the festivities. This is sure to be great fun!

At the end of November, our first-grade classes reenacted the first Thanksgiving Feast. Students donned paper turkey-feather headbands and traditional Pilgrim hats as a culmination activity to learn about the holiday and the importance of giving thanks. Students were served a healthy feast of fruits, vegetables and popcorn.

In closing, I want to say thank you to all our Wild Rose supporters. As we begin the holiday season, I want to wish everyone peace and happiness!

Plymouth *Elementary*

1300 Boley St., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-2400 • <http://plymouth.monroviashools.net>



Suzanne Heck
Principal

Parent Institute for Quality Education

We all know how important parent involvement is to student success. So when Plymouth was given the opportunity to join forces with the Parent Institute for Quality Education

(PIQE), we jumped at the chance. Over 30 parents were involved in weekly meetings where parents learned how to navigate elementary school, middle school, high school and beyond. Parents participated enthusiastically and enjoyed the many activities and discussions they had as part of our first class of PIQE parents.

On November 10, 2016 our first PIQE class graduated with Dr. Thorossian, board member Rich and director of counseling, college and careers present.



Santa Fe *Middle School*

148 West Duarte Rd., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-2700 • <http://santafe.monroviashools.net>



Dr. Caroline Sweeney
Principal

Music to Our Ears

What do you get when you put 50 students in vest and slacks, shiny instruments in their hands, and hours of practice? The Santa Fe Middle School marching band under the direction of Tony Ellis.

On Thursday, December 1st, Santa Fe Middle School Advanced Band, 55 students strong, marched their way up Myrtle Ave in our hometown of Monrovia. Crowds lined the street, children clapped, parents took pictures, and our students had a moment they will remember forever.

This is not the only opportunity that Santa Fe band has to shine. On Monday, December 12th Santa Fe held its Holiday concert where almost 20% of the school participated in either Advanced Band, Beginning Band, or Orchestra. Santa made an appearance and our community again got to see the great things that our students can do.

As always, proud of all Cougars; but, well done Santa Fe Music.



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